KNOCK KNOCK

HEEY

I'M OPENING IT NOW~

WAIT, WAIT.

TAP TAP

COO~MING!

DINGDONG♪

Moment Like Fireworks

Nanzaki Iku

I'M NOT USED TO...

...WALKING IN THESE WOODEN SANDALS.

AWWE

AH.

THUD...

OPEN

HEY.

SORRY, I'M A LITTLE LATE.

SLAP

GAH!

AAAAAAAH! RICCHAN! ♥ My mistress!

SMACK

AGH!!

STUPID! YOU'RE MESSING UP MY OUTFIT!

OI... SAYO!

squeeze ♥ ♥ ♥

squeeze

HSSSSSS...

S... SORRY...

SUUUUUUPER CUTE!

YOU'RE CUTE! ♥

QUIVER

QUIVER

I love you ♥

SHE'S MAKING A NUISANCE OF HERSELF AGAIN

AH, HEY, RITSUKO-CHAN. APOLOGIES FOR MY IDIOT HERE.

Stop screwing around!
Idiot!
Boom
URAA
Boom
AA!
AUNTIE HAS MEMORIES TOO... THAT ONE TIME I TRIED USING FIREWORKS AS A BAZOOKA...
I was so young~
What the hell is that girl doing?
Uwah
PLEASE DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME.
THAT MAMA'S MEMORIES ARE A LITTLE BIT OFF...
I GET THE FEELING
AHAHA...
GOING TO SEE FIREWORKS, HUH? SOUNDS FUN.
ON YOUR SUMMER BREAK, WEARING A YUKATA... AH, IT'S NICE TO BE YOUNG.
Ah
GOOD EVENING, M'AAM.
Evening
Uuu...
CALLING ME "IDIOT" AND "STUPID"... EVERYONE IS GANGING UP ON ME...
FUFU...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
HMM?
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT, RICCHAN?
YES, YES.
Sorry for being "like that".
WE'RE OFF!
OKAY~
THERE ARE PLENTY OF TEMPTATIONS LURKING IN A MIDSUMMER NIGHT!
Have fun~
SAYO'S LIKE THAT, BUT RICCHAN, YOU'RE CUTE, SO WATCH OUT, OKAY?
RIGHT...
As a college student your sex appeal has gone up!

Boom

Ba-boom

Got to be careful.

SHALLOW PEOPLE LIKE THAT WOULD CERTAINLY GATHER AT A FESTIVAL.

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY RELEVANT FOR US, IS IT?

CLACK CLACK

GRIP

CLACK

CLACK CLACK CLACK

MMM... I GUESS.

WAS SHE TALKING ABOUT SKIRT-CHASERS?

WHEN SHE SAID "TEMPTATIONS",

...RICCHAN.

CLACK

Boom

...REALLY?

SAYO, YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY GOOD TOO.

IN YOUR YUKATA.

I FORGOT TO MENTION THIS, BUT

YEAH.

SUPER CUTE.

CLACK

CLACK

FLASH
Ba-boom
Boom
Since ...YEAH. I'm not used to you praising me.
DID I EMBAR-RASS YOU?
Ehehe. THANKS...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
SAYO, YOU ARE CUTE. ♡
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
ZOOM
Ba-boom
CRACKLE
It's pretty!
OH-! THAT ONE WAS HUGE!
CHATTER CHATTER
WHAT IS IT CALLED...
"STAR MINE"?
CANDY APPLE.
CHATTER
YEAH... THEY'RE PRETTY.
BUT THIS PLACE SURE IS CROWDED.
It's hot.
CHATTER
CHATTER
AH!?
SAYO!?
OH?
THERE IS THIS PLACE NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ON THE OTHER SIDE...
WE'VE BOUGHT EVERY-THING WE WANTED, NOW HOW ABOUT HEADING SOME-WHERE QUIETER?

CHATTER
Boom
CHATTER
HEYA, TAKA-NASHI.
Haven't seen you since middle school Graduation, right?
WAVE WAVE
SAYO, I KNEW THAT WAS YOU!
WOW, IT'S BEEN AGES!!
OH? YUKARI AND DAIKI?
Who?
CHATTER
Ba-boom

Geez~
CHATTER
CHATTER
THAT'S NOT RIGHT, YUKARI.
SHE'S TWO YEARS OLDER THAN US AND IN COLLEGE,
A pleas-ure.
AH... PLEASED TO MEET YOU, I'M SAKURAI.
CHATTER
Ah
A FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL? PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
Pleased to meet you.
CHATTER
CHATTER
AND RATHER THAN JUST A "FRIEND", SHE'S...
Eh, you are saying it!?
THUD...
I'M YUKARI, I WENT TO MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH SAYO!
This is Daiki, my boyfriend!

Ba-boom
CRACKLE
SINCE YOU'RE BY YOURSELVES HERE, HOW ABOUT COMING WITH US?
Ah.
Wow..
Oh...
YEAH, YEAH!
MY HIGH SCHOOL BUDDIES ARE OVER BY THE RIVER,
SHE'S MY "CHILDHOOD FRIEND",
RICCHAN.
OH, IS THAT SO?
She is cute~
Ba-boom
CHATTER CHATTER
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN AGES...
AH, SORRY...
YEAH, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL THERE, TOO.
CHATTER CHATTER
BUT IT'S ALL GUYS, SO IT'D BE GREAT IF TWO GIRLS JOINED US.
Especially in yukata!!
Go say hi!

TUG

TONIGHT,

I'M PLANNING ON HAVING A DEEP LOVE STORY...

...TOGETHER WITH MY GIRL~

GIRLS ONLY!!

WOW... YOU LOOK SERIOUS.

Wouldn't have imagined that of the old Takanashi...

I'M SCARY WHEN I'M ANGRY,

SO DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT SPREADING FALSE RUMORS!

N.O.P.E

Ooh... close friends?

EEEH, YOU JUST NEED TO SHOW UP~

SIMMER

I won't GO!

What kind of boy-friend!?

Yukacchi wants to hear the love story too!

BUSY

BUSY

HUH.

///

OF COURSE I AM! I'M SERIOUSLY IN LOVE.

Then, let's get chicken!

Idiot, Beef is way too expen- sive. Ah!! Dai-chan, let's get a Beef skewer!

.....

Chicken?

.....

The mid-summer night is fraught with peril!

HMPH.

...IF YOU CARELESSLY STARTED GETTING ALONG WITH DAIKI'S FRIENDS, RICCHAN?!

OF COURSE!! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

...WAS THAT ALL RIGHT?

CHATTER

YEAH. SEE YOU LATER.

Later.

WELL THEN, UNTIL NEXT TIME, HAVE FUN TOGETHER.

I GET IT.

CHATTER

AH... GOOD-BYE.

CHATTER

SAKURAI-SAN AS WELL, BYE-BYE.

What a shame.

I'LL MAIL YOU AGAIN~

EH?

I'M NOT REALLY MAD.

AH...

ARE YOU MAD? RITSUKO-SAN.

Since it sounded like I was threat-ening them.

CHATTER

GULP...

CHATTER

WELL... JUDGING BY THE CONVERSATION, I THINK I'VE GOTTEN A BIT OF AN IDEA OF WHAT THE OLD YOU WAS LIKE.

Although those two seemed like good kids.

...YEAH.

YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT... ...BEING IN LOVE WITH ME, RIGHT?

I MEAN,

grip

You're too manly.

YOU COULD HAVE PUT THAT MORE POLITELY!!

HEY!

AWA!?

I CAN TAKE IT, I HAVEN'T GOT A STICK UP MY ASS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO EVASIVE ABOUT YOUR PAST.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE SAYO STANDING IN FRONT OF ME.

THEN IT'S FINE.

Yeah, Boom

I FOUND IT BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE HERE.

WOW, WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THE VIEW IS GREAT!

Ba-boom

BUT SAYO, YOU LIKE THAT PART OF ME, DON'T YOU?

EEH, I WONDER...

So there was some-where like this near the shrine...

YES... I LOVE IT...

Uuu...

Ba-boom

CRACKLE

EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN HEAR THE PEOPLE ON THE PATH TO THE SHRINE,

THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

This place.

YEAH, IT'S A GREAT LITTLE SECRET SPOT, HUH?

YEAH.

CHATTER CHATTER

BOOM

BOOM

...HEY.

HMM?

I... REALLY DID WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU AS "MY GIRL" PROPERLY, BUT...

ABOUT BEFORE... SORRY.

AAH... IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY.

I'M STILL A "CHILDHOOD FRIEND" AS WELL.

I JUST REALLY...

...DIDN'T WANT TO JUST CALL YOU A "FRIEND".

good girl

good girl

...YEAH.

It's okay.

I WOULD LIKE NOT TO HAVE TO LIE ABOUT THE FACT...

...THAT I LIKE YOU, EITHER.

Don't worry about it.

Ba-boom

GOOD!

KISS

...YEAH!

SNAP

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO GO AROUND TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT IT THOUGHT-LESSLY, EITHER.

OKAY?

WE DON'T HAVE TO HIDE OUR RELA-TION-SHIP,

WE'RE JUST TWO GIRLS IN LOVE.

wet

MMMM...

FLINCH

SINCE WE STARTED DATING, YOU'VE ALREADY MATURED PLENTY.

Hm...

Hoo

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY.

JUST GROW UP SLOWLY, BIT BY BIT.

HMM?

RIC-CHAN...

SLIP

You sure think long-term

YEAH...

CRUNCH

Even I'm not a grown-up yet, erther

TO BE HONEST, I MIGHT KIND OF LIKE THAT WISHFUL SIDE OF YOU.

I... WANT TO BECOME AN ADULT QUICKLY.

THAT IS, TO HAVE THE SAME MATURE OUTLOOK AS YOU, RICCHAN...

IT'S FINE, YOU CAN'T SEE THIS PLACE FROM THE SHRINE'S PATH.

Wai—

WAIT... A SEC... DOING IT OUTSIDE... IS...

BUMP

TOUCH

BUT... THEY'LL HEAR US...

Mu Ah

MM...

SHUMP

AAH... FU... AAH...

Sto-

Trembl

AHHH

FU...

...Oh, well.

Uu

KISS

SNAKE

THANK YOU, RICCHAN.

I LOVE YOU.

...AH...?

RI...GHT...

SHIVER

Ba-boom

It's only at times like these that you have such a... grown-up expression.

squeeze

It's not fair...

Sigh

YOUR KISSES AND YOUR TOUCHES ARE ALSO MUCH MORE TENDER THAN THEY USED TO BE...

EU...

G-SCUZ

AAA...AH

HAA...

AH...

NN

...MMM

FROM TIME TO TIME, I FIND A COMPLETELY NEW SIDE OF HER...

JOLT

OOPS...

squeeze

CLATTER

AAAAH...

Wai...

STOP... NOT... THERE...

CLACK

CLATTER

OR SOMETHING THAT COMPLETELY SURPRISES ME.

Mm...

And when she gets the mood going, I become an idiot who can't control herself.

Haa...

I THINK I'VE... REALLY, SERIOUSLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER.

Haa

I WONDER WHY...

EH?

I would never tell her that, but...

Ah..

Shudder

SHIVER

Mmm.. mmm..

Slump

Schlp

LIKE THIS...

THEY BOTH WANT... TO EMBRACE AND MELT INTO EACH OTHER...

Haaa...

PEOPLE... AND FIRE-WORKS...

Boom

Ba-boom

BUT... WHEN IT'S ALMOST OVER, IT'S PAINFUL.

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE...

...AAH...

Haa..

Ha

WHEN THEY DO... IT'S FUN, AND IT FEELS GOOD...

Mmm.

Zzz...!!

MMM... I DON'T... REALLY GET IT THOUGH.

KUU... UN...

NNN... NNNN...

TREMBLE

Ha

Gentle squeeze

Schlp

DRIP

Schlp

SHIVER

Boom
Ba-boom
CRACKLE
YEAH...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
Ha...
IN THE END...
...IT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE SENSE.
Sigh...
Ha
THAT... YOU CAN THINK OF WANTING TO DO IT AGAIN...?
IT'S BECAUSE THERE *IS* AN END...
Ha...
Ha
Ha... aa...
twist
squeeze

BUT EVEN SO, WE... WANT TO EMBRACE EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND WATCH FIREWORKS TOGETHER AGAIN...

ACTU-ALLY...
I STILL HAVEN'T PAID YOU BACK FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID TO ME TODAY, HAVE I?
Seri-ously
LOOSEN
I TAKE IT ALL BACK... HURRY UP AND BECOME AN ADULT!
It'll be fun!
AND THEN WE CAN DO IT IN THE OPEN AIR DURING MIDWINTER WHILE WATCHING THE FIRE-WORKS!
IT'LL BE LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO DIE OF COLD!
I HEARD THERE'S A TOWN THAT DOES FIREWORK DISPLAYS AROUND DECEMBER.
...COME TO THINK OF IT,
HUH... Sounds nice.
THIS WINTER.
LET'S GO THERE, RIC-CHAN...
CHIRP
TUMBLE

A BRIEF DIGRESSION.

Um, er... sorry.
No.. um...
In tears.
COM-PLETELY COVERED IN MOSQUITO BITES... WHAT HAVE YOU TWO BEEN UP TO?
Suspicious..

END

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Moment Like Fireworks

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